National News Agency of Indian Languages

†1729. SHRI ALI ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the only National news agency of Indian languages was constituted with a view to have its management of that co-operative nature;

(b) whether a decision was taken in the first meeting held with news paper owners to the effect to include a representative or the employees of the institution in Board of Directors;

(c) whether it is the policy of the Government that no single owner should have control on this monopoly even the working of the news agency in the interest of a healthy democracy in the country; and

(d) if so, what measures are being taken by Government to make U.N.I. and Univarta stronger in their functioning?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (d) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting exercise no control over the Print Media including news agencies. United News of India (UNI) is a media company registered under the Companies Act, 1956 and its affairs are governed by the shareholders through their representatives on the Board of Directors.

Child labourers in Tamil Nadu

1730. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a number of child labourers are forced to work in Sivakasi of Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether Government are also aware that those children are working in hazardous fire factories; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken by Government to control and prevent the number of child labourers in Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) and (b) In view of the initiatives taken by the Central and State Government, the number of child labourers in the fire works/match factories in Tamil Nadu including Sivakasi has come down significantly.

(c) To prevent the children working in hazardous occupations and processes, the State Government conducts frequent inspections and raids at the industrial establishments. With a view to rehabilitate children so withdrawn from work, Government is implementing the National Child Labour Project (NCLP) Scheme in 13 districts of Tamil Nadu, namely, Chidambaranar (Tuticorin), Coimbatore, Dharmapuri, Vellore, Pudukkottai, Salem, Tiruchirapalli, Tirunelveli, Krishnagiri, Chennai, Erode, Dindigul and Theni. Under the Scheme,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.